

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the terpene-phenol resin comprises from about 1 to about 40 % by weight of phenol as measured by weight of the compound.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the terpene-phenol resin comprises from about 5 to about 20 % by weight of phenol as measured by weight of the compound.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein the phenol-containing compound is present in the ~~biodegradable polymer or~~ biodegradable polymer composition at from about 0.5 to about 10 weight % as measured by the total weight of the ~~biodegradable polymer or~~ biodegradable polymer composition.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein the phenol-containing compound is present in the ~~biodegradable polymer or~~ biodegradable polymer composition at from about 1 to about 3 weight % as measured by the total weight of the ~~biodegradable polymer or~~ biodegradable polymer composition.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~wherein the aliphatic aromatic copolyester and~~ wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol,

and 1,4-butanediol, R¹³ is selected from the group consisting of malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, pimelic acid, 2,2-dimethyl glutaric acid, diglycolic acid, and an ester forming derivative thereof, and R¹⁴ is selected from the group consisting of one or more of 1,4-terephthalic acid, 1,3-terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthoic acid, 1,5-naphthoic acid, and an ester forming derivative thereof.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the ~~biodegradable polymer or~~ biodegradable polymer composition further comprises one or more of: a pigment, a dye, an opacifying agent, an antioxidant, an ultraviolet stabilizer, an optical brightener, an aliphatic acid, a metal salt, an antistatic agent, an antiblocking aid, a filler, a dispersing agent, a coating aid, a slip agent, a lubricant, starch, wood, and flour.

10. - 23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The biodegradable polymer composition of claim 30 wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol, and 1,4-butanediol, R¹³ is selected from the group consisting of malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, pimelic acid, 2,2-dimethyl glutaric acid, diglycolic acid, and an ester forming derivative thereof, and R¹⁴ is selected from the group consisting of one or more of 1,4-terephthalic acid, 1,3-terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthoic acid, 1,5-naphthoic acid, and an ester forming derivative thereof.

25. (previously presented) The biodegradable polymer composition of claim 30 wherein the phenol-containing compound comprises from about 1 to about 40 % by weight of phenol as measured by weight of the compound.

26. (previously presented) The biodegradable polymer composition of claim 30 wherein the phenol-containing compound is present in the biodegradable polymer composition in amount of from about 0.5 to about 10 weight % as measured by weight of the biodegradable polymer composition.

27. (currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition of claim 30 wherein the phenol-containing compound is present in the biodegradable polymer composition in an amount of from about 1 to about 3 weight % as measured by weight of the biodegradable polymer composition.

28. (currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition of claim 30, wherein the biodegradable polymer composition further comprising comprises one or more of: a pigment, a dye, an opacifying agent, an antioxidant, an ultraviolet stabilizer, an optical brightener, an aliphatic acid, a metal salt, an antistatic agent, an antiblocking aid, a filler, a dispersing agent, a coating aid, a slip agent, a lubricant, starch, wood, and flour.

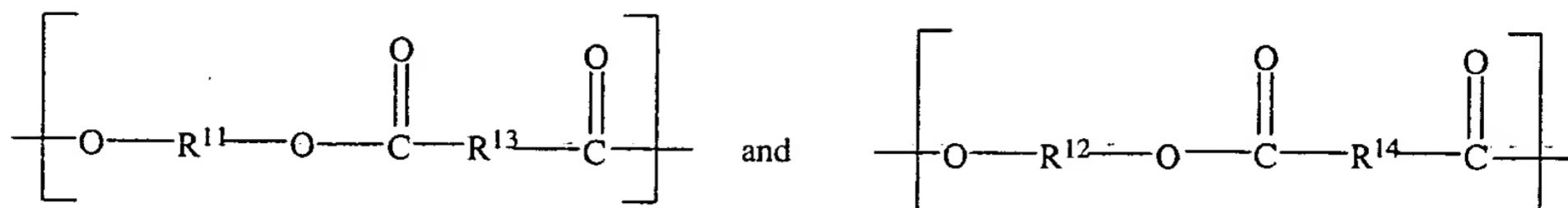
29. (currently amended) A method for preparing an article from a biodegradable polymer composition wherein the method comprises:

- a. introducing a phenol-containing compound comprising terpene-phenol resin into a ~~biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer~~ composition comprising a biodegradable polymer having a degradation rate, wherein the phenol-containing compound is added in an amount sufficient to slow the degradation rate of the ~~biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer composition~~; and
- b. mixing the phenol-containing compound with the biodegradable polymer ~~or biodegradable polymer composition~~ thereby providing a biodegradable polymer composition;

wherein the biodegradable polymer ~~or biodegradable polymer composition~~ consists essentially of:

an aliphatic-aromatic copolyester having repeat units of the following

structures:



wherein

- (i) R^{11} and R^{12} are the same or different, and are residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pantanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexanediol, thiodiethanol, 1,3-cyclohexanedimethanol cyclohexanedimethanol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol, triethylene glycol, or tetraethylene glycol;
- (ii) R^{11} and R^{12} are 100% of the diol components in the copolyester;
- (iii) R^{13} is absent or is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $C_1 - C_{12}$ alkylene or oxyalkylene; $C_1 - C_{12}$ alkylene or oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $C_6 - C_{10}$ aryl, and $C_1 - C_4$ alkoxy; $C_5 - C_{10}$ cycloalkylene; and $C_5 - C_{10}$ cycloalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $C_6 - C_{10}$ aryl, and $C_1 - C_4$ alkoxy; and
- (iv) R^{14} is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $C_6 - C_{10}$ aryl, and $C_6 - C_{10}$ aryl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl, and $C_1 - C_4$ alkoxy; and

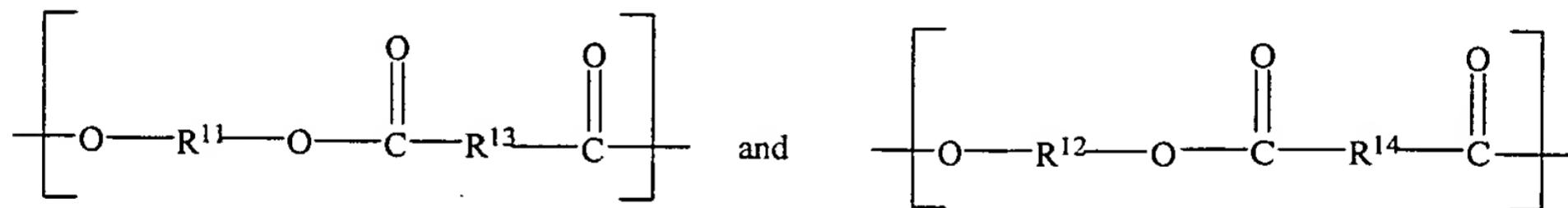
c. forming the biodegradable polymer composition into an article, wherein the article comprises: a film, a bottle, a blow molded article, an injection molded article or a container, and wherein the article exhibits a delayed biodegradation rate over an article formed from a biodegradable polymer composition not

including the phenol-containing compound.

30. (currently amended) A biodegradable polymer composition for making an article comprising a film, a bottle, a blow molded article, an injection molded article or a container, wherein the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer second material composition comprises:

- a. ~~a phenol containing compound comprising terpene phenol resin incorporated in the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer second material composition, the phenol containing compound being present at an amount sufficient to slow the degradation rate of the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer second material composition; and~~
- b. a. ~~a biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer second material composition consisting essentially of:~~

an aliphatic-aromatic copolyester having repeat units of the following structures:



wherein

- (i) R^{11} and R^{12} are the same or different, and are residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexanediol, thiodiethanol, 1,3-cyclohexanedimethanol, cyclohexanedimethanol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol, triethylene glycol, or tetraethylene glycol;
- (ii) R^{11} and R^{12} are 100% of the diol components in the copolyester;
- (iii) R^{13} is absent or is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C_1

- C₁₂ alkylene or oxyalkylene; C₁ - C₁₂ alkylene or oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C₆ - C₁₀ aryl, and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy; C₅ - C₁₀ cycloalkylene; and C₅ - C₁₀ cycloalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C₆ - C₁₀ aryl, and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy; and
- (iv) R¹⁴ is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C₆ - C₁₀ aryl, and C₆ - C₁₀ aryl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C₁ - C₄ alkyl, and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy; and

b. a phenol-containing compound comprising terpene-phenol resin, wherein the phenol-containing compound is present in the biodegradable polymer composition at an amount sufficient to slow the degradation rate of the biodegradable polymer, and wherein the article exhibits a delayed biodegradation rate over an article formed from a biodegradable polymer composition not including the phenol-containing compound.